

*Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way*

December 27, 2015

First Sunday of Christmas

*I Samuel 2:18-20, 26*

*Psalms 148*

*Colossians 3:12-17*

*Luke 2:41-52*



**In My Father's House** Object: TV remote, a book, car keys-any item easily misplaced.

Have you ever misplaced something? Of course you have. We have all done that, haven't we? Perhaps we were reading a book and put it down and then later couldn't remember where we put it. Maybe we were watching television and couldn't remember where we put the remote control. I have even put my coffee cup in the microwave oven and later couldn't remember where it was. What do we do when we misplace something? We usually retrace our steps to all of the places we have been until we find it.

Our Bible lesson today is about some parents who misplaced something. Now, these weren't just any parents -- it was Mary and Joseph -- the parents of Jesus. Mary and Joseph didn't misplace something like a book or some keys. They misplaced Jesus! Here is how it happened.

Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem every year for the Feast of the Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem just as they always did. After Passover, they began their journey home, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary didn't know it. They thought he was with some friends or family members who were traveling with them. After they had gone a day's journey, they began to look for Jesus among their relatives and friends, but he wasn't there. When they couldn't find him, they decided to return to Jerusalem to look for him. After searching for three days, they finally found him. Guess where he was? He was in the temple, sitting in the middle of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking them questions.

When Mary and Joseph saw him, they were astonished. His mother asked him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? Your father and I were anxiously looking for you."

Jesus answered, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" You see, even as a child, Jesus knew that he must follow the path that his Father had laid out for him, and at that moment, the most important place for him to be was in his Father's house.

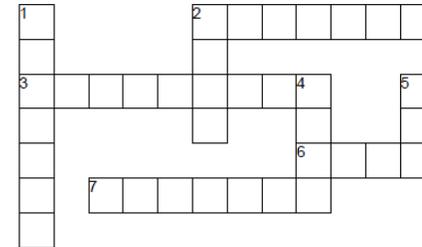
Jesus said it was important for him to be in his Father's house. It is also important for you and me to be in his Father's house. Why? Because His Father's house is our Father's house too! It is a house of worship, a house of prayer, a house of peace, a house of love, a house of joy. What better place could there be for a child of God than to be in the Father's house?

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia (Col 3:15, 16)

Dear Father, we have come into your house today to worship you. Help us to remember that there is no better place for your children to be than to be in your house. Amen.

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## Crossword Puzzle



**ACROSS**

- 2. To accept as true
- 3. The mother of John the Baptist
- 6. The mother of Jesus
- 7. To agree to do something for someone in the future

**DOWN**

- 1. Highly favored by God
- 2. An infant; a young child
- 4. The place where a person lives
- 5. The feeling of great happiness

ELIZABETH	PROMISE	BLESSED	BELIEVE
JOY	MARY	HOME	BABY

**MAKE A CHURCH:** Using craft sticks, have the children glue them in the shape of a church on construction paper. Have them draw a walkway to the church and stick people going to it. Write the title WE ARE GOING TO MY FATHER'S HOUSE.

**MY FATHER'S HOUSE ACROSTIC:** Write MY FATHER'S HOUSE downward on a large sheet of paper. Have the children write words that begin with each letter having to do with how they feel and/or what they do when they are in their Father's house.



# THE BOY JESUS VISITS THE TEMPLE

LUKE 2:39-52



“And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting  
In the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.  
And all that heard him were astonished at this understanding and answers.”

Luke 2:46-27